

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /093 W

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R 010330Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8463

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2426

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KN, KS, NZ

SUBJECT: GNZ POSITION ON RECOGNITION NORTH KOREA

1. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AUSTRALIA HAS RECOGNIZED NORTH KOREA HAS RESULTED IN PRESS ARTICLES TO THE EFFECT THAT GNZ WILL FOLLOW SUIT. HOWEVER, PM KIRK'S PRESS STATEMENT AND COMMENTS OF MFA OFFICIAL INDICATE ARTICLES ARE INCORRECT.

2. IN HIS STATEMENT KIRK NOTED THAT WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES CAN HELP EASE ADJUSTMENT LASTING SETTLEMENT IN KOREA CAN ONLY BE EFFECTED BY KOREAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES. KIRK RECALLED GNZ'S POLICY TO WORK WITH ALL COUNTRIES IN REGION TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL PROGRESS. "IT FOLLOWS THAT WE WOULD WISH EVENTUALLY TO OPEN RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA TOO. THE TIMING OF THAT DECISION, HOWEVER, WILL BE MATTER FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. IT WILL ALSO DEPEND ON CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WHOSE POSITION WE HAVE LONG SUPPORTED."

3. NOTING THAT "ALL THE UNBENDING" COULD NOT COME FROM ONE SIDE ALONE, KIRK STATED, "THE FRIENDS OF BOTH NORTH UNCLASSIFIED

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AND SOUTH KOREA HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP BUILD

CONFIDENCE AND GOODWILL OF THE TWO SIDES TOWARDS EACH OTHER. I WOULD LIKE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG TO BE PART OF SUCH A WIDER MOVE TOWARDS KOREAN RECONCILATION."

4. TIPPING, ACTING HEAD OF MFA ASIAN DIVISION, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT WHILE HE CONSIDERED RECOGNITION INEVITABLE HE DID NOT SEE IT TAKING PLACE IN NEAR FUTURE. GNZ RECOGNITION OF DPRK WOULD BE PREDICATED ON LOWERING OF TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA AND PROGRESS IN SEOUL-PYONGYANG RELATIONS.

5. QUERIED CONCERNING ARRIVAL YESTERDAY IN CHRISTCHURCH OF FOUR MAN DPRK GROUP, TIPPING STATED THEIR PRESENCE WAS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL. GROUP, INVITED BY NEWLY FORMED

NZ-DPRK FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, ORIGINALLY REQUESTED VISAS TO COME TO NZ IN JUNE TO DISPLAY PHOTO EXHIBIT FEATURING KIM IL SUNG. THOUGH GROUP IS BILLING ITSELF AS OFFICIAL DELEGATION, GNZ CONSIDERS IT TO BE ON PRIVATE, UNOFFICIAL VISIT. DELEGATION WILL NOT RPT NOT BE MEETING WITH ANY GNZ OFFICIALS.

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